DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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YOUTH LEADERS JAILED

Five Years Imprisonment for Fighting Wehrmacht

The West German Constitutional Court at Karlsruhe has sentenced two young Germans to long terms of imprisonment for fighting against the formation of a new nazi Wehrmacht.

Jupp Angenfort, 31-year-old leader of the Free German Youth in West Germany was sentenced to five years hard labour, and Wolfgang Seiffert, a leading member of the Free German Youth, was sentenced to four years imprisonment. Both have been in prison for over 18 months awaiting trial.

Angenfort and Seiffert were found guilty of "preparing high treason" and "attempting to overthrow the constitution of the German federal Republic". Evidence was produced in court that they had called for mass strikes to prevent the remilitarisation of West Germany, and sentencing them, Judge Geier stated:

"Their call for political mass strikes is high treason, since each and every strike is an act of force, and must therefore be regarded as high treason under paragraph 81 of the criminal code. To call for the overthrow of the Adenauer Government is illegal.

"The fact that the two accused called in this court for the formation of a united, peace-loving and democratic Germany must be taken into consideration, since this in itself proves their high treason."

Protests against the imprisonment of these two young men, whose only crime is their fight against the remilitarisation of West Germany, should be sent direct to:

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer,
Bonn,
West Germany.

Copies of protests should be sent to this paper.

"German Soldiers Were Like That"

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On the left we reproduce a "heroic" propaganda photograph made in July 1941 by nazi propaganda photographer Reinhold Lessmann. It was reproduced by millions to help the nazi war effort.

On the right we reproduce a film placard plastered all over West Germany in May 1955, advertising the war propaganda film "So War Der Deutsche Landser" (German Soldiers Were Like That) composed mainly of documentary material from old nazi newsreels. The film shows Hitler receiving foreign statesman and the commentator says proudly "They all came to see Adolf", and gives a detailed account of the nazi invasion of most of Europe.

There is no indication in the film that German soldiers ever committed any war crimes, but alleged allied war crimes are dealt with at length.

TEN-POINT PLAN FOR GERMANY

Walter Ulbricht on Foreign Relations

The Germans themselves from both parts of Germany must now get together in order to create the conditions under which the Four Powers can reach an understanding on the peaceful solution of the German problem, East German Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht proposed in Berlin on June 2nd.

He proposed a number of points on which Germans from East and West should try to reach agreement in order to facilitate such understanding These points are:

1. Campaign for disarmament and for the banning of atomic weapons.

2. Cessation of all war propaganda and racial hatred in press, radio and school.

3. Normalisation of the situation in Berlin through the shutting of espionage centres in West Berlin, and prohibition of "old soldiers' rallies" in West Berlin.

4. Campaign for withdrawal of occupation troops and removal of military bases in Germany, and for the preparation of a peace treaty for a Germany free of all alliances and guaranteed by a collective security treaty.

5. Normalisation of the economic relations between West and East Germany.

6. Removal of all fascist war criminals, and in particular all SS men from the administration and police in West Germany.

7. Cooperation between trade unions, women and youth organisations in both parts of Germany. and exchange of delegations.

8. Restoration of full rights to the Free German Youth in West Germany, at present banned.

9. Cooperation between sports organisations.

10. Cooperation between scientific and cultural organisations, to care for the cultural heritage and develop German culture.

Walter Ulbricht, who is First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party, made these proposals at a meeting of the Central Committee in Berlin.

He devoted a large part of the speech to a sketch of the international relations of the German Democratic Republic, and the future international position of a democratic and united Germany.

A system of European collective security, Walter Ulbricht stated, would be the most effective guarantee of freedom, national independence and security for Germany, both at present in a situation where Germany is split, and in the future. In this connection Ulbricht stated:

"The best guarantee is a treaty guarantee of the national right of self-determination, and a guarantee of the frontiers laid down in the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements.

"Such a solution could be achieved now, before the unification of Germany. Such a solution would give new impetus to movement for reunification, and would enable the patriotic forces in Germany to clarify with the Four Powers and the European states the stipulations of the peace treaty which will be concluded with a united Germany — a peace treaty which must guarantee Germany's full sovereignty. Such a treaty must be completely in accord with the United Natinos Charter.

"Contrary to the arguments of certain West German politicians, such a Germany would not be defenceless, since it would have its own police forces of militia, and in case of a threat it could rely on the full military support of the signatories to the European Security Treaty."

Turning to the foreign relations of the German Democratic Republic today, Walter Ulbricht stated:

"The growth of our friendly relations with Finland, particularly in the economic and cultural field have shown that this serves the interests of both peoples. We believe however that these relations can be still further extended, and that a further normalisation of the political relations too would have positive advantages for both peoples.

"Lately we have been able to solve various questions affecting traffic with Sweden and Denmark. It will also be possible to solve satisfactorily other important questions with regard to trade, culture and international relations with these states if the principle of equal rights is maintained, and no concessions are made to pressure from other foreign powers. The relations between all the peoples of the Baltic area have a long tradition. If all Baltic states reach an understanding on joint efforts to make the Baltic into a 'sea of peace', this will be of great service to the cause of European peace.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that a normalisation of relations with Austria will serve the interests of both peoples, and will accord with the wish of both peoples for independence, security and peace. The German Democratic Republic has raised no questions regarding property in Austria. (Ulbricht was here referring to the fact that West Germany has called for the 'return' of 'German property' in Austria, seized by the nazis in 1938, ed.)

"We greet the efforts made by such countries as India, Indonesia, Egypt, Burma and others for the maintenance of peace, and we are glad that the first steps have been taken towards mutual understanding.

"We greet the efforts made by the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia for the creation of normal relations between the two countries... Following the publication of the joint statement made by the Governments of the USSR and the Yugoslav People's Republic we express our wish in the spirit of this statement to normalise relations between the German Democratic Republic and Yugoslavia, that is to say to develop economic, cultural and political relations."

Correction

An unfortunate error crept into the article "Dear Joe" on page 81 of the last issue of GERMAN REPORT. Owing to a typing error it was stated that it cost "10 marks a day" to send a child to kindergarten in the German Democratic Republic. This should have read "10 marks a month". We apologise to readers for any confusion which this may have caused.

Roosevelt Democrat Tells Senate Committee:

"NO NEW NAZI WEHRMACHT"

Former Michigan State Senator Opposes Remilitarisation

On March 30th 1955 Mr Stanley Nowak, former Democratic member of the Michigan State Senate, testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on the question of West German rearmament. On these pages we reprint his testimony, which was virtually suppressed by the American press. It has been slightly shortened for reasons of space.

Mr Chairman and members of this committee, during World War II, I was a member of the Michigan State Senate, where I served altogether 10 years. I was and am a Roosevelt Democrat.

During my years in the Michigan State Senate, I did everything within my power to implement the courageous and farsighted policy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to achieve a better deal for the common man to make the United States a genuine arsenal of democracy both at home and in its prestige and influence abroad.

Ten years ago, our American people were pouring out a tremendous sacrifice of lives and treasure, of "blood, sweat and tears", together with our allies, to smash the German military machine which had devastated and enslaved all of Europe and part of Africa, and which systematically conducted its conquest by the most barbaric, savage and diabolically inhuman methods ever known to mankind.

Nor was this the first time that German militarism had plunged the world into war.

At the conclusion of World War I, German militarism was crushed. But it was allowed to revive itself, and was supported and aided by powerful forces outside of Germany. The result was World War II.

After years of terrible suffering and struggle, German militarism was again crushed.

And now, ten years later, we are asked to revive German militarism once again. Even the same arguments are used — that German militarism is necessary to maintain peace, to defend the West, to hold back Bolshevism — this was Hitler's favorite excuse — and so on.

History has unmistakably demonstrated how false these arguments were. It was German militarism which broke the peace, which turned against the West, and it was the Soviet Union which became our ally in defeating German militarism.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt understood the lesson of history very well. And therefore, in seeking to win World War II and to establish a lasting peace, he sought to extirpate this cancer of German militarism.

In his message to Congress on September 17th, 1943, President Roosevelt declared:

... "there is one thing I want to make perfectly clear. When Hitler and the Nazis go out, the Prussian military clique must go with them. The war-breeding gangs of militarists must be rooted out of Germany — and out of Japan — if we are to have any real assurance of future peace. We shall not be able to claim we have gained total victory in this war if any vestige of fascism in any of its malignant forms is permitted to survive anywhere in the world."

In another speech, on December 24th 1942, President Roosevelt stated that Germany must be "stripped of her military might and be given no opportunity within the foreseeable future to regain that might."

This opinion, which was almost unanimously that of the American people and all embattled humanity, was embodied in the Yalta Declaration in these words:

"It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and nazism and to insure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to disarm and disband all German Armed Forces, break up for all time the German General Staff that has repeatedly contrived the resurgence of German militarism ..."

These were conclusions based on the terribly hard facts of two World Wars; they were the fruit of bitter experience.

Nothing has happened in the intervening years to change them.

I should like to recall to this committee that back in 1939, when President Roosevelt was attempting to strengthen world democracy against fascism, Mr. John Foster Dulles so grossly underestimated the danger of German militarism that he stated:

"There is no reason to believe that any totalitarian state would attempt to attack the United States. Only hysteria entertains the idea that Germany, Italy or Japan contemplates war upon us."

This statement was made in a speech before the Economic Club of New York, on March 22nd, 1939, only a little more than a week after Hitler had seized Czechoslovakia.

Referring to Germany, Italy and Japan — then allied as the Axis powers — as "dynamic", Mr. Dulles excused the revival of German militarism under Hitler in these words:

"There crystallized in Germany a determination to achieve by unilateral action some redress of those provisions of the peace treaties which rankled as injustices and surrounded Germany with artificial restraints and inhibitions."

We know now that the removal of these so-called "artificial restraints and inhibitions" resulted in the death of more than 20 million people and a devastation which has not yet been repaired.

At that time, the character and nature of German militarism was already very clear, especially after the rape of Czechoslovakia, but it was also clear earlier, in the concentration camps of Germany.

In my opinion, President Roosevelt judged the situation then more clearly than Mr. Dulles, and the conclusions he drew should continue to rule our consideration of all aspects of the German situation.

Today, 10 years after the conclusion of the greatest and most disastrous war in human history, we are asked to reject the lessons of nearly a hundred years of agonizing experience of German militarism and to consent to revive it and rearm it once again.

I believe that to give this consent would be the bitterest mistake ever made.

It is my sincere conviction that the welfare and peace of the United States will be best served by rejection by the Senate of the London-Paris agreements for the rearming of West Germany and its inclusion in NATO.

There is an alternative to this policy, which avoids the danger of a revival of German militarism and which bears a promise of easing tensions and of smoothing the road to peace.

Four Power Meeting

Wifhin recent days, powerful and authoritative voices have spoken in favor of Four Power negotiations. President Eisenhower has expressed a general agreement with the statement of Senator Walter F. George, chairman of this committee, on this subject. Similar hopes have been held out to the French people, the English people and the Italian people by the leaders of their Governments. Even Chancellor Adenauer, who has steadily opposed such talks, has conceded. It is very evident that this step represents the popular feeling of people everywhere.

However, this proposal for Four Power talks is based on the prior condition that the London—Paris pacts should be ratified first.

It appears to me that this condition adds another obstacle to block fruitful Four Power negotiations, instead of smoothing the way.

I respectfully urge this Committee to postpone action on ratification and to call for a Four Power conference as a peaceful alternative to the rearming of Western Germany.

It is a strange situation — but only one of the many paradoxes of this policy of rearming West Germany — that foreign parliaments should vote on an army which has no popular support in West Germany itself.

The Associated Press reported on March 23rd 1955 from Frankfurt that Dr. Eberhardt Barth, chief of the legal department of the West German Defense Commission, stated that 80 to 90 per cent of the German youth is opposed to conscription.

German Youth Opposed to Conscription

It is estimated that there are 3,500,000 West German youths between the ages of 19 and 26. Gaston Coblentz, reporting from Bonn in the New York Herald Tribune of January 23rd, 1955, stated that only 12,000 youths had volunteered for the new Wehrmacht. This solidly confirms Dr. Barth's statement.

In this opposition there is the German labor movement. The Frankfurt resolution of the 6 million strong West German Trade Union Federation, passed on October 10th 1954, declared:

"For the international development of the Federal German Republic, the rearmament and organization of a German Army as laid down by the London agreements, would bring danger of creation of a militaristic authoritarian state. This would, in turn, defeat the efforts of the German workers' movements to establish political, social and economic democracy."

The largest Christian body in Germany, the German Evangelical Church, is split down the middle by the division over rearmament, as was reported in the New York Times on March 12th 1955.

However, there are in West Germany many people who eagerly desire rearmament and are willing to pay any price for it.

And this fact underlines the great dangers involved in West German rearming. For these people are the most reactionary elements in West Germany. The democratic forces oppose rearming.

West Germany has been neither democratized nor denazified. The process that has gone on has been one of harsh, dictatorial rule by Chancellor Adenauer, and a return of former Nazis and their associates to positions of power in government, public life, rearmament and in industry.

A decisive step toward renazification was Bonn Law 131. This prescribes that in all official positions, discrimination against former Nazi party members should stop at once. Later this law was extended to former members of the S.S. troops.

Steps Towards Renazification

Hans Habe, in his book "Our Love Affair with Germany", states that among West German officeholders "there are today over 45 per cent former Nazis; among the members of Parliament, over 25 per cent belonged to the NSDAP."

A startling confirmation of such charges came from Chancellor Adenauer himself. It was charged in October 1952 that 85 per cent of the Foreign Office under Adenauer was Nazi. Chancellor Adenauer protested that it was not so, that the figure was "only 66 per cent". He stated verbatim, as reported in the American press, October 23rd 1952:

"They — the Nazis who served under Hitler — understand the principles of policies, they can speak foreign languages, they know the technique of diplomacy and they can get along with foreigners."

The proposed new Wehrmacht will be in the hands of members of Hitler's former General Staff. It will be officered by Hitler's former officers.

The German militarism which Hitler headed started with 100,000 men and without modern instruments of war.

Today it is proposed to start the rearmament of Western Germany with an army of 500,000 and with all of the most modern death-dealing devices, including atomic weapons.

It is argued that inclusion of the West Germany Army in NATO will place controls over this army. Controls were also placed on the 100,000 strong German army after Versailles. But this army wal illegally enlarged and armed.

It is important to note that General Hans Speidel, who has been designated as laison officer between the new West German Wehrmacht and NATO, was intimately involved in the illegal rearmament of Germany during the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic.

Headlines of the Century

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

DAWN OF WORLD PEACE SEEN

U.S. Ready To Rearm West Germany

Military and Veteran Organizations

The Versailles Treaty forbade veteran and similar armed organizations. However, they continued to function and became the nucleus of subsequent fascist formations and of Hitler's armed forces.

This same process has occurred in West Germany. Mr. Habe, in his book, "Our Love Affairs" with Germany", declares that the old Nazi General Staff has been in control since 1951. He further states:

"We didn't even bother to change the Allied law according to which military and veterans' organizations were forbidden; we have silently tolerated and later actively supported the Hitlerite Soldatenbunde."

The German Soldiers' Calendar for 1955, an almanac published by Hitlerite veterans organizationy, prints the addresses of 749 different organizations and associations of former Nazi soldiers.

The Stahlhelm, the leading veterans' organization, elected former Field Marshall Kesselring its president while he was still serving a life sentence as a convicted war criminal.

In connection with these facts, it is interesting to note that General Ludwig Cruewell, who is the designated commander in chief of the proposed West German Wehrmacht, was prominent in building the illegal Black Reichswehr during the Weimar Republic.

Ratification of the London-Paris pacts for the rearming of West Germany and its inclusion in NATO will place tremendous new resources and power for evil in the hands of those same unregenerate elements who plunged the whole world into war, and who are part of a tradition of German militarism which has disrupted the peace of the world since the Franco-Prussian War.

It is obvious why these elements favor rearming of West Germany. It will serve their ravenous and insatiable appetite for empire.

They have made unmistakably clear their claims to the former empire they carved out of Poland, as well as other territory.

On March 15th, the New York Times reported that by action of the West German Bundestag a display was hung in the entry to the Parliamentary Assemby Hall of the escutcheons of all the former German provinces, together with those of the states of the West German Federation.

Included were the escutcheons of what is once again Polish territory, Silesia, Pomerania and East Prussia.

Chancellor Adenauer has voiced this insatiable appetite for expansion and empire by declaring that he intends to void the boundary of Poland on the Oder and Neisse River and to reclaim the lands formerly held by Germany.

This is why Chancellor Adenauer demands rearmament. This is also why the majority of the West German people are opposed to it, for they know this policy leads to war, a war in which they will be the victims and which they do not want.

Turning to the United States, it would be extreme political shortsightedness to lose sight of the fact that large sections of the American people are deeply concerned and opposed to rearming West Germany — and for the same reason.

AN INDIAN IN EAST GERMANY

By Balwant Gargi, Indian Dramatist

I was the only Indian in the plane from Paris to West Berlin. I did not know French or German. A fat lady who sat next to me helped me understand what the hostess said and ordered supper for me.

"Going to Berlin?" she asked me.

"Yes", I said, "I am going to meet German writers in both parts of Berlin."

She opened her eyes wide. "But you cannot meet German writers in the Eastern sector. There are only Communist writers there."

"But they are all German writers, all the same, aren't they?" I replied. "I shall meet other writers, too, from East and West. Above all, I am going to meet Schiller."

She was amused at my ignorance. "What Schiller are you talking about, my good man?"

"There's only one Schiller," I said.

"And where does he live?"

"Yes", she said, "Schiller is our poet. He speaks for the German soul. I love his poems ....." When we parted in Frankfurt on Main I took her hand and said: "I will carry your message to Schiller." And in Weimar I combined the greetings of my countrymen with hers.

For a full week national flags fluttered on all squares and buildings in Weimar, and Schiller pictures and placards welcomed the guests.

I love to walk in the streets of Weimar. It is not built like modern towns, in squares and slabs and straight lines . . . it has odd curves, strange corners, fantastic projections and surprises. It has grown and developed through centuries. It has evolved like a human being and it has soul.

I stroll about in the streets. I do not know the language, but there is no interpreter with me. I don't like anyone at my side when I stroll about: an interpreter makes a running commentary, and I feel as if I must be sold and advertised through the limbs of a woman.

From Weimar's shop windows Schiller's sensitive features look at you giving you a peep into the past.

Everyone, old and young, is wearing a Schiller badge. I also wear this lovely embossed badge on my coat — a badge much more beautiful than army badges or insignias of war deeds. I buy Schiller's plays, Schiller's poems and, in the post office, Schiller stamps. I write a lot of letters to my friends in different countries, to India, China, England, France, America and the Soviet Union, and send them these stamps. It must surprise some of them very much. Instead of Kaisers and Kings and Queens on stamps, we have the stamps of the poets now!

Two girls on their way home from school stand and look at me. They whisper to each other. Perhaps they cannot decide from which country I

fumed with spring, trees in bud and new leaves. He offers me a cigarette. I smoke it and say the one German word I know: "Danke!"

The streets look neat, friendly, familiar. I stroll to different far-off corners and alleys. I do not need to ask the way, for all streets flow to the big square where Schiller and Goethe stand hand in hand before the theatre. It is really strange that these curved, winding streets should seem to speak to you and tell you the way to the square . . .

People of all colours and nationalities and languages have come to Weimar. The Elephant Hotel is like a beehive humming with people who have brought the honey of their culture and homage to Schiller.

Bustle, hurry, colour and confusion — like an Indian marriage. It is lively and human. I find warmth and human love in this bustle of people in the committee room. German writer Anna Seghers embraces me like a peasant mother from my own country, her infectious smile hiding in it the pain of all humanity. Thomas Mann, the great old young man of Germany, whose voice is heard beyond the seven seas, smiles benignly to me. Stephan Hermlin chews the stem of his pipe as he talks in his distinctive, vivid voice. Fuernberg, the embodiment of human warmth and fraternity, goes from table to table making the guests comfortable.

Schiller has brought hundreds of people of all nations to Weimar, the home of German writers and poets, the town that gave a constitution to Germany, the town of Liszt, Wieland, Goethe and Schiller himself.

"YOU CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES"

West German Comment on Eastern Factories

We reprint below extracts from an article on East German industry which appeared on May 19th 1955 in "Die Welt", West German right-wing newspaper.

Industrial economists may some day decide whether in East Germany the extent of investment in industry at the expense of the living standard of the people was justified or not.

But anyone who saw the completely dismantled (as part of reparations for war damage, ed.) Brandenburg Steel Works in 1946 can hardly believe his eyes when he sees the new works and the new machines which have been built and the 5,000 workers who are employed there now. The Hennigsdorf Rolling Mills have been built up in the same way.

These two works formerly belonged to the Flick concern and can therefore not be regarded as entirely new. But after careful investigation, it appears that there are actually 27 absolutely new works in East Germany.

Model for them all is the Iron Foundry Combine East, which has grown up out of the ground in Fuerstenberg on the Oder, and was named after Joseph Stalin some time ago. Here the East German Minister for Heavy Industry, Selbmann, felled the first spruce in August 1950. Today 7,000 workers are engaged in working up the iron ore which rolls in daily from Krivoi Rog (in the Soviet Union, ed.) Gas from the six blast furnaces already in operation provides the power which runs the most up-to-date cement works in Europe. Four more blast furnaces are to be put into operation here, now that heavy industry has again taken priority in East Germany.

The Iron Foundry Combine in Calbe on the Saale river is somewhat smaller, but still of considerable importance, particularly on account of its new style low-shaft furnaces.

In addition to these two well-known projects without which it is no longer possible to visualise East German planning, Mecklenburg in particular has a number of industries which have been built up out of nothing. The Rostock Diesel Motor Works, for example, was founded in 1948 and by 1952 had become one of the key undertakings, employing about 3000 workers and office personnel.

A whole chapter could be devoted to the new wharves and ship-building industry, built up at a cost of many millions of marks.

The nationally owned ELMED works, which produces electro-medical apparatus, and whose installations are valued at ten million east marks, was set up in 1951 in Hohenneuendorf near Berlin.

The Dresden Transformer Works, newly built after the war, is said to have cost about twenty million marks and, according to our information, the expenditure has been justified.

During the last eight years the Buna Works in Zschopau (producing synthetic rubber etc., ed.) has been completely overhauled at a cost of 530 million east marks, so that it is, practically speaking, "new". And according to impartial experts the Sachsenwerk (electro-motors and transformers, ed.) in Niedersedlitz is now bigger and better equipped than before the war.

The giant chemical combine in Leuna today produces 72 new products. The Zeiss Optical Works in Jena, completely dismantled at the end of the war, now has 14,000 up-to-date machines of all kinds at its disposal.

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Berlin W 8,
Germany.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

On May 29th the BBC broadcast a programme called "A Picture of Europe Ten Years After Victory". There are a lot of criticisms I could make of this programme, but I should like to concentrate on just one point.

BBC star reporter Richard Dimbelby gave an account of the nazi concentration camp at Belsen as he saw it immediately after British soldiers had arrived there in May 1945, littered with 20,000 corpses and filled with dying victims of nazism. So far so good. But he then went on to say that British soldiers now stationed nearby know little about the nazi crimes in this and other concentration camps. And he commented, and I quote his exact words: "Why should they? They are there as guests of an ally, and concerned with the present and future."

Why Should They?

Why should young British soldiers know about the appalling crimes committed by the German militarists only ten years ago?

Now I could give Richard Dimbelby plenty of answers to this question, and I expect that most readers could give him a good answer too.

But let the British War Office answer him. I have here before me an official British War Office booklet issued in January 1945, to British soldiers driving into Germany. Here are some passages from this booklet:

"The history of these last years must not be repeated. The purpose of the British Commonwealth and its allies and all the forces which represent them is not vengeance against the Germans. It is to make sure that they will never again have a chance to submerge Europe and the world in blood. Remember, for as long as you are in Germany, that you would not be there at all if German war crimes had not made this war inevitable.

"After 1918, behind the scenes, the real power still remained in the hands of the generals, the great industrialists and landowners and the professional civil servants. They waited and watched for a chance to assert themselves. Be on your guard."

I repeat, these sentences are a verbatim quotation from an official British War Office booklet issued to British soldiers in Germany just over ten years ago. Here are a few more sentences from this booklet:

"We were taken in by them after the last war: many of us believed their talk about disarmament and the sincerity of their desire for peace. And so we let ourselves in for this war, which has been a good deal bigger than the last."

That was what British soldiers in Germany were being told ten years ago. And it was a very clear warning.

Has the position really changed today? In East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, it certainly has. Here the militarist generals, the great industrialists and landowners have been deprived of their power, and for the first time in German history a really democratic state has been established.

But in West Germany cannon kings like Krupp have kept their power, and today a West German army is being formed. This new Wehrmacht will be commanded exclusively by generals who fought for Hitler, and who made it possible for the nazis to commit their crimes and to run horror camps like Belsen.

The official British booklet issued in 1945 which I have quoted above stated plainly:

"There are signs that the German leaders are already making plans for a third world war. That must be prevented at all costs."

And to that, I have nothing to add.

Life in West Germany

Dr Gerhard Peters, inventor and manufacturer of "Zyklon B", the poison gas which was used by the nazis to liquidate millions of concentration camp inmates, has been acquitted by the court in Frankfurt, West German, before which he appeared charged with war crimes.

The court acquitted Dr Peters on the grounds that it considered that no proof had been brought that the gas, which Dr Peters admitted sending to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, had actually been used in the gassings carried out there. The state prosecuting attorney, summing up, first said: "It is not to the credit of the accused if the poison gas which he supplied was not actually used, since he did everything possible to produce this gas for the purpose of killing people." After this statement the prosecuting attorney then asked for acquittal.

During the course of the trial Dr Peters told the court that the regarded the use of poison gas in nazi concentration camps as "an act of humanity" since the victims were thereby killed painlessly.

* * *

Herbert Daab, one of the nazi soldiers who helped to wipe out the French town of Oradour in 1944, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a French Court in 1953. A few weeks ago he was amnestied and returned to his home town of Meckenheim in West Germany.

The municipal council of Meckenheim gave this war criminal a "festive reception" paid for by the tax-payers, at which a former SS officer held a speech praising the "great services rendered by the SS to the European cause."

* * *

The June issue of "Stahlhelm", magazine of the militarist West German "Steel Helmet" organisation, advertises for sale the following articles:

"Uniform shirts, original field grey, proved quality. Fuehrer's belts, belt buckles with Kaiser's crown and inscription 'Gott mit uns' (God With Us)."

Silent Invaders

When French Foreign Minister Pinay was in the West German capital of Bonn recently he looked sceptically at the soldiers of the "Frontier Defence Force" in their old Wehrmacht steel helmets as they presented arms in greeting. Then he glanced at their boots, which are rubber-soled, instead of being hobnailed as in the past. "Next time we shan't even be able to hear them, when they come marching in" he murmured.

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